5. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994. 4 hours

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Statement Regarding Government Business

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 31st July, 2000 will consist of:-

1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-

   (a) The Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

   (b) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment)Bill, 1994.

2. Consideration and passing of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2000 as passed by Lok Sabha.

3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Lok Sabha:-

   (a) The Iron and Steel Companies (Amalgamation and Takeover Laws) Repeal Bill, 2000.

   (b) The Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Death of Precious Wildlife in Various Parts of the Country Including Zoos and Wildlife Sanctuaries

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, चिड़ियाघरों और वन्य जीव अभयारण्यो सहित देश के विभिन्न भागों में बहुमूल्य वन्यजीवों की मौतों तथा इस बारे में सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही की ओर मैं पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं ।

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Calling Attention motion on the death of animals in zoos and sanctuaries is evidence of the great empathy and concern that people in our country and Members of Parliament, in particular, have for wildlife. This will also send a clear and loud message to zoo and park managers that their performance is being closely watched by the nation and that their response to the mandate given to them has to be appropriate and adequate. Even before I received notice of this Calling Attention motion, I had proposed to seek leave to make a statement on the recent death of zoo tigers.

I have personally monitored factors relating to the death of twelve tigers at Nandankanan zoo. I have no reservation in admitting that the zoo director and the zoo veterinarian were unable to show the professional competence that was expected of them. A number of significant inadequacies have been identified and the State Government has been requested to take mitigative measures. Overcrowding of animals, inappropriate housing, poor standards of sanitation and hygiene and inadequate expertise in the field of health care of zoo animals have jointly contributed to these deaths. Another negative factor has been the inadequate level of funding that the zoo has received from the State Government in the past years.

Then I received information of some other upsetting incidents. The recent deaths of lions in Gir, cheetals in Ranthambore and peacocks at Morena were also enquired into.

The information that I have is that except for one lion that was electrocuted, the death of the other lions was because of natural causes and currently there is no threat of any kind of infection to other animals in the area. As regards the death of cheetals in Ranthambore, a few animals were killed by dogs in the fringe areas of the Park, whilst two animals were suffering from tuberculosis. I will have something more to say on this later. In Morena district, investigations revealed that a number of peacocks died due to consumption of bajra seed which had been treated with pesticides.

I would like to give some statistics about existing zoos. Presently, there are 199 recognised zoos, of which 15 are large, 17 medium, 31 small

and 136 mini zoos and deer parks. The total number of animals in these zoos, which includes birds and reptiles, is around 25,000. Of this, 9000 animals belong to the endangered category. According to the information available with me, during the last four years, around 1600 animals have died in these zoos, which comes to about 10 per cent of the total.

As regards tigers, their number in zoos is around 313. More than 75 per cent of the tigers are of captive-bred origin. No tiger has been captured in the last ten years for the purpose of display in the zoos. The number of tigers that have died between 1995-96 and 1998-99 is 141. Of this, tigers account for an average of 35 deaths in a year. This is about 12 per cent of the population of zoo tigers. The average birth rate of tigers during this period is about 19 per cent.

As regards the number of wild animal deaths in sanctuaries approximately, 140 tigers, 700 panthers, 450 elephants,15 lions, and 127 rhinoceros have been killed by poachers in the last five years.

In the wild, we have an estimated population of tigers, which is between 3500 and 3700. Taking the average life span of tigers as 20 years, out of this population, not less than 175 tigers would be dying of old age. There is the incidence of infant mortality also and about 400 cubs die a natural death every year. Then, there are instances of handicapped animals dying of starvation, as well as tigers killing each other to safeguard their territory.

An area of concern that I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members is the negative impact of disturbances in the habitat of the animals and the inadequate prey base of the cats. This has resulted in a tendency on the part of tigers and other cats to increasingly look towards livestock to meet their food requirements. This has led to a man and animal conflict, with resultant instances of poisoning.

The panther appears to be under greater threat because of its tendency to live in the fringe areas of the forest. Intrusions by panther into human habitation is not uncommon, where they are lured by easy prey availability of livestock, dogs and, at times, human infants. In this regard, the position tends to become quite grim at times in the hills of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. There have also been instances of panther intrustion into some suburbs of Bombay and within the limits of Guwahati City. Recently, in a series of seizures, 200 panther skins and a larger

number of other parts such as nails were seized. While the regulatory agencies have been put on the alert, these cases have been referred to the CBI. Separately, my Ministry is in the process of finalizing a proposal for an exclusive agency to investigate wild life crimes. There are, however, other issues also. We have made arrangements for increase in compensation for cattle deaths as also for speedy disbursement of compensation. Besides, a greater degree of awareness is also needed to sensitize those who are involved in man and animal conflicts about the precious loss to our bio-diversity when needless senselessness takes place in such situations. My Ministry is working on a scheme to increase the level of public awareness in this area.

I would like to mention that epidemics also take a heavy toll of wild animal life. Sometime around 1950, 30 to 40 per cent of the wild ass population was wiped out due to trypanosomiasis. In the seventies, an outbreak of rinderpest nearly wiped out the gaur population in Madumalai, parts of Periyar and Bandipur. Fortunately, nature has been able to revive the depleted population, assisted by availability of an adequate habitat and effective protection measures.

Another important issue is the destruction of wild life habitats. Habitat destruction due to biotic pressures and various developmental activities have brought down the recruitment rate, especially in the case of the tiger. Sharing of common grazing grounds and water pool with livestock has brought in diseases like tuberculosis in national parks and sanctuaries. Cases of tuberculosis in tigers have been reported from Sariska in Rajasthan.

Railway lines passing through forests continue to be a serious threat for elephants. Five elephants in Uttar Pradesh and six in Assam have died because of this reason. Road accidents have also taken a toll of wild animals in Kaziranga, Assam and Gir in Gujarat.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention that the draining of water bodies and swamps for agricultural purposes has severely affected the population of swamp deer and various species of water birds. Intensive agriculture and deforestation in high hill areas has intensified floods in our major rivers. The Kaziranga National Park is a regular victim of such floods. The floods in 1998 monsoons took a toll of two tigers, forty-four rhinos,

three elephants, three wild buffalos, fifty swamp deer and more than six hundred herbivores. There are reports of three elephants being washed away in flood waters in West Bengal. Use of pesticides has added another serious dimension to the problem. We are all worried about fifty peacocks dying after eating bajra seeds coated with pesticide. I am informed that twelve elephants died in Dhenkanal district of Orissa because of consumption of agricultural crop which had been sprayed with pesticide by the farmers. Experience over the years has brought about a realization that wild animal population cannot be preserved only in isolated islands of national parks and sanctuaries. Wild animals know no legal boundaries. We will have to adopt a total landscape approach for protection of wildlife. Farmers will have to be convinced to adopt cropping patterns under which the damage to crops from wild animals is minimal.

We are trying to ensure increased allocations to the State Governments, expeditious flow of funds, strengthening of protection-infrastructure, creation of a specialized agency for monitoring and collection of intelligence data on poaching and seeking international cooperation for curbing trans-border trade. However, the success in wild life conservation will be limited unless people from all walks of life cooperate in tackling the problems of poverty in the vicinity of national parks and sanctuaries, through ecologically - sustainable development strategies. The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers will have to give way to use of organic manure and bio-pesticides in the vicinity of wild life habitats. Treating the scrub forests as wastelands and diverting them for agriculture, draining every drop of water for irrigation will have to stop. All this can be achieved by reviving the healthy tradition of this country of living in harmony with nature. Wild life conservation has to be the concern of all departments of the Government at Centre and State level. Ecological security should get the same priority as is given for national security. I hope that the debate we have on this very important subject will give us greater strength to effectively meet the challenge of conserving our biological diversity.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : सभापति महोदय, देश के विभिन्न भागो में चिड़ियाघर और अभ्यारणों मे जो बहुमूल्य वन्य जीव रह रहे हैं उनकी मृत्यु पर माननीय मंत्री जी ने वक्तव्य दिया है । यद्यपि वक्तव्य बहुत बड़ा है लेकिन सारगर्भित नहीं है । इसमें इन्होंने कार्य योजना का जिक्र किया है लेकिन वास्तविक रूप से क्या किया गया है इसका उन्होंने सही जिक्र नहीं किया है । इसलिए यह कहा जाए कि वे कुछ करने की स्थिति मे नहीं हैं या कर नहीं पाएंगे तो मैं समझता हूं कि कोई अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगी । सभापति जी, विगत दिनों में हमारे देश में जो वन्य जीवों के अभ्यारण के लिए शरण स्थली माने जाते थे अब यह माना जाने लगा है कि वे उनकी मरण स्थली बन गए है ।

यह स्थिति निश्चित रूप से चिंता और क्षोभ का विषय है । हमें यह देखना होगा कि आखिर हमारी कमजोरी कहां है । सरकार की उस कमजोरी को दूर करने में क्या भूमिका होनी चाहिए और सरकार ने क्या किया इसकी तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित करने के लिए मैंने इस पवित्र संसद में इस विषय को उठाया है । हमें यह विचार करना होगा कि आखिर इस विषय को यहां उठाने की नौबत क्यों आई । देश के जो अभ्यारण्य हैं, जो चिड़ियाघर हैं उनमें वन्य जीवों का जो जीवन है वह सुरक्षित नहीं है । वे कई महामारियों के शिकार हो रहे हैं । आए दिन हम पेपर में पढ़ते हैं कि उनकी मौतें हो रही हैं । जो देश के जाने माने वन्य जीव विशेषज्ञ हैं वे खुद इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं कि इन चिड़ियाघरों और अभ्यारण्यों में जितने चिकित्सकों की आवश्यकता होनी चाहिए, जो बेहतर चिकित्सीय सुविधा प्रदान की जानी चाहिए वह उपलब्ध नहीं है । साथ ही जो उन्हें एनीमल हेल्थ केयर की एजूकेशन मिलनी चाहिए- एनीमल मेंटिनेस के लिए, एनीमल की डाइट के लिए तथा प्रोपर हाइजनिक कंडीशन को मेंटेन करने के लिए ट्रेनिंग और शिक्षा अर्जित करने वाले लोग भी इन स्थानों पर समुचित संख्या में तैनात नहीं किए गए हैं, यह खुद विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है ।

महोदय, नन्दनकानन की घटना का जिक्र माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में किया है। यह हमारे देश के अभ्यारण्यों के इतिहास में एक सबसे बड़ी दुखद घटना है । नन्दनकानन में ह्वाइट शेर जितनी संख्या में मौजूद थे, पूरे विश्व में उनकी संख्या सबसे ज्यादा थी । ये भी लुप्त हो रहे हैं । इस संबंध में सरकार का इस प्रकार का जो लचीला वक्तव्य आया है यह निश्चित रूप से हमारे लिए बहुत दुर्भाग्यजनक है । नन्दनकानन में बताया जाता है कि टाइपनासोमाइटिस नाम की बीमारी से बाघों की मृत्यु हुई । इसी प्रकार की बीमारी पहले बंगलौर में भी फैली थी जिसकी वजह से शेरों की मृत्यु हुई थी । अन्य स्थानों पर भी हुई थी । लेकिन समय रहते सरकार ने समुचित कदम नहीं उठाए इसकी वजह से यह स्थिति हो गई । इसके लिए हम यह कह सकते हैं कि यह एक राष्ट्रीय हादसा है । मान्यवर, जहां हम यह कहते हैं कि नन्दनकानन में 3 जुलाई 2000 को बारनिल के इंजेक्शन दिए गए थे, दरअसल वे प्राइमरी कंडीशन को कंट्रोल करने के लिए दिए गए थे, क्यूरेटिव क्युअर के लिए नहीं दिए गए थे । यह खुद विशेषज्ञों का कहना है । जो जांच आपने बिठाई है उससे हम किस परिणाम पर पहुंचे हैं यह मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं । खुद मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में इस बात को स्वीकारा है कि यह जू ओवर बर्डन है । एक पिंजरे में 24-24 जानवर रह रहे हैं । पिंजरों की कैपेसिटी इतने जानवरों को रखने की नहीं थी । इस जू में जो वेटरिनरी डाक्टर होने थे, सेंट्रल जू अथारिटी के जरिए उनको लंदन भेज दिया गया था और बाद में उनका इस जू से ट्रांसफर कर दिया गया । तो जिस पर्याप्त शिक्षा, दीक्षा और ट्रेनिंग की मैं बात कर रहा हूं एक तरफ तो आप उनको ट्रेनिंग के लिए लंदन भेजते हैं और दूसरी तरफ जब वह लंदन में शिक्षा-दीक्षा अर्जित कर लेते हैं तो उनको उस जगह पर पोस्ट न करके उनका दूसरी जगह ट्रांसफर कर देते हैं । मैं यह समझता हूं कि यह अपने आप में एक हास्यास्पद बात है । खुद मंत्री जी स्वीकार कर रहे हैं कि उस जू की बहुत अनहाइजनिक स्थिति थी । मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर बाउंड्री वाल भी नहीं थी और वन्य प्राणी भी वहां पर प्रवेश कर रहे थे । इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जब हमारे देश में बात हो पेड़, पानी, पहाड़, पशु, पर्यावरण और प्यार की तो प्रधानमंत्री जी को संवेदनशील होना चाहिए । मामला केवल पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय का नहीं है । महोदय, मैं अनुप्रास अलंकार में बात कर रहा हूं । पशु, पानी, पर्यावरण, प्रधानमंत्री और प्यार । इसमें संवेदनशीलता न झलके ..**(व्यवधान)**

श्री टी0 एन0 चतुर्वेदी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : पचौरी भी शामिल कर लीजिये ।

श्री राजू परमार (गुजरात) : वह तो हैं ही ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : पचौरी जी द्वारा ही तो उद्बोधन हो रहा है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long will you take?

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैं अभी समय लूंगा । प्रधानमंत्री जी आ गये हैं, वे यदि वक्तव्य देना चाहते हैं तो दे दें । मैं उसके बाद बोलूंगा ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Regarding Shri Ram Jethmalani's resignation from Union Council of Ministers

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain statements have been made by Shri Ram Jethmalani, former Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, with regard to the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India. I have gone through those statements. My Government does not share the views of Shri Jethmalani with regard to the subject matter on which he has spoken. We completely disagree with his perception of the facts. The Government believes in promoting a harmonious relationship between the different wings of the State. Without going into the question of the correctness of any possible view involved on the issues on which Shri Jethmalani corresponded with the hon. Chief Justice of India, I was of the opinion that even the difference of opinion between the Chief Justice of India and the Law Minister should not create any imbalance in the harmonious relationship. Thus, in order to ensure that this harmonious relationship is not only maintained but also strengthened, I exercised my prerogative and asked Shri Jethmalani to resign. I have gone into the text of his statements issued yesterday, that is, 27th July, against the Chief Justice of India and the Attorney General of India. I reiterate that my Government completely disagrees with his perception.